

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

AID-20 SPC-03 EB-11 NSC-10 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 PC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03 AGR-20 DRC-01

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R 152300Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2312

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0120

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, UNDP, EAID

SUBJECT: UNDP 17TH GOVERNING COUNCIL - ADMINISTRATOR'S

OPENING REMARKS

REF: (A) USUN 091; (B) USUN 088

SUMMARY

UNDP ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED GOVERNING COUNCIL AT OPENING OF 17TH SESSION JANUARY 14. AMONG TOPICS COVERED WERE INCREASED CONFIDENCE OF GOVERNMENTS IN PROGRAM, IMPROVED RESOURCE SITUATION IN VIEW OF PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1974, DIFFICULTY IN MAKING RESOURCE AND EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS, NEED FOR SUSTAINED HIGH LEVEL OF RESOURCE GROWTH TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SPECIAL AND EMERGENCY NEEDS AS WELL AS COUNTRY PROGRAMS, REMEDIAL MEASURES BEING TAKEN OR UNDER CONSIDERATION TO OVERCOME SHARP DISCREPANCY BETWEEN PROJECT BUDGETS AND IMPLEMENTATION RATES, IMPORTANCE OF INTER REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROJECTS WHICH CURRENTLY CONSTITUTE ONLY MINOR PART OF PROGRAM AND APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROPOSED INTEGRATION OF UN VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE. ITEM RECEIVING

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MOST ATTENTION WAS QUESTION OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLES IN LIBERATED TERRITORIES OF AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDP ADMINISTRATOR RUDOLPH PETERSON ASSERTED IN

OPENING REMARKS TO 17TH SESSION OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL JAN 15 THAT PROGRAM HAD GAINED GROUND IN LAST HALF YEAR. HE FOUND BROAD CONFIDENCE AND WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNDP CONFIRMED IN PELEDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1974, IN TALKS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS, AND IN CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS AT 28TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ADMINISTRATOR SAID RELATIONS WITH EXECUTING AGENCIES HAD BECOME CLOSER. INTERNALLY, UNDP ADMINISTRATION HAD CONTINUED TO KEEP OPERATING PROCEDURES AND METHODS OF MANAGEMENT UNDER CLOSE STUDY, INTRODUCING CHANGES WHILE CONTINUING PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMY CONSISTENT WITH MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY.

2. ADMINISTRATOR WAS ENCOURAGED BY RECENT PLEDGING CONFERENCE WHEN 80 GOVERNMENTS (NOT INCLUDING US) MADE PLEDGES FOR 1974 AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN FOR 1973. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNDP REPRESENT RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS OF TOTAL OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT AID (ABOUT 3 PERCENT) , MINOR OVERALL SHIFTS IN PRIORITIES OF DONOR COUNTRIES OFTEN HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON UNDP RESOURCES AND MAKE FORECASTING OF FUTURE RESOURCES DIFFICULT. THUS RESOURCE PROJECTIONS MAY SHOW "DEFICIT" ONE YEAR AND "SURPLUS" THE NEXT. ON EXPENDITURE SIDE AS WELL, UNDP NOT YET SATISFIED IT CAN MAKE PREDICTIONS WITH SATISFACTORY ACCURACY.

3. ADMINISTRATOR STATED THAT WHILE UNDP'S FIRST PRIORITY MUST BE IMPLEMENTATION OF CUNTRY PROGRAMS, IT ALSO NEEDS FLEXIBILITY IN ORDER TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS, UNFORESEEN SITUATIONS, PARTICULARLY PROMISING INTER-REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROJECTS, AND EMERGENCIES. 1974 GROWTH IN RESOURCES, IF SUSTAINED , WOULD PERMIT ACHIEVEMENT OF BOTH OBJECTIVES.

4. ADMINISTRATOR PREDICTED EXPENDITURES DURING CURRENT PROGRAM CYCLE WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW OVER ALL IPF TARGET DESPITE INEVITABLE LAG-TIME BETWEEN COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS. NEVERTHELESS UNDP WAS CONCERNED BY SHARP DISCREPANCY BETWEEN SOME PROJECT BUDGETS AND IMPLEMENTATION RATES, WHICH RELATED TO DIFICIENCIES
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AND LACK OF REALISM IN FORMULATION, PLANNING AND PHASING OF PROJECTS. REMEDIAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN MIGHT INCLUDE GREATER DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY TO FIELD FOR DETAILED ELABORATION OF PROJECTS. GREATER ATTENTION ALREADY BEING GIVEN TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH PERIODIC REVIEWS AT COUNTRY LEVEL WITH PARTICIPATION BY GOVERNMENTS, RESREPS AND EXECUTING AGENCIES. WAYS TO IMPROVE BACKSTOPPING BY EXECUTING AGENCIES AND UNDP HEADQUARTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND GREATER EMPHASIS TO BE PLACED ON ENSURING THAT DELETED AUTHORITY IS PROPERLY UTILIZED. ALL THESE MEASURES POINTED TOWARD INCREASED RESPONSIB-

ILITY AT COUNTRY LEVEL. IN THIS REGARD, REPORTS FROM RESREPS INDICATED INCREASING SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT BY RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. CONSEQUENTLY, UNDP EXPECTED TO MAKE INCREASINGLY USE OF NATIONAL CAPACITY IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

5. ADMINISTRATOR LAMENTED THAT INTER-REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROJECTS, WHILE HAVING PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE COST BENEFIT RATIO, CONSTITUTED EXTREMELY SMALL PART OF PROGRAM. HE SAID THREE NEW GLOBAL PROJECTS (INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY FOR RESEARCH ON ANIMAL DISEASES, INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER FOR AFRICA, AND PROMOTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT) ILLUSTRATED OPPORTUNITIES HE SAW AHEAD GIVEN ADEQUATE RESOURCES, COMMITMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND INVOLVEMENT BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

6. AS REPORTED REFTEL (B), ADMINISTRATOR ADVISED COUNCIL THAT HE HAD APPOINTED COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROPOSED INTEGRATION OF UN VOLUNTEERS (UNV) AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE (SIVS) AND THAT HE HOPED TO PRESENT CONCRETE MEASURES FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION AT 18TH SESSION.

7. BALANCE OF ADMINISTRATOR'S ADDRESS DEVOTED TO QUESTION OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND PEOPLES IN LIBERATED AREAS OF AFRICA AND UNDP RELATIONSHIP WITH ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU). ADMINISTRATOR STATED THAT FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH OAU HE HAD FORWARDED DRAFT AGREEMENT TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU IN NOVEMBER, 1973. DRAFT AGREEMENT INCLUDED GUIDELINES FOR UNDP/OAU COOPERATION APPROVED BY COUNCIL AT 13TH SESSION. ASSISTANCE
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ENVISAGED WAS (1) TRAINING FOR OAU HEADQUARTERS STAFF NOT TO EXCEED \$ 50,000 PER YEAR, (2) FINANCING OF LARGE OAU-IDENTIFIED REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS, AND (3) PROGRAMS, PRIMARILY IN FIELD OF EDUCATION, FOR PERSONS DISPLACED FROM TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL RULE OR SUBJECT TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESPONDED WITH REQUEST FOR CLAUSE STATING UNDP WOULD ASSIST LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. UNDP CONSEQUENTLY ADDED CLAUSE REFERRING TO PERTINENT GA RESOLUTIONS AND TO UNDP'S SPHERE OF COMPETENCE. OAU REQUEST THAT UNDP ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS COME FROM SPECIAL RESOURCES RATHER THAN REGIONAL IPF'S NOT INCLUDED PENDING UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF MATTER. DURING LAST YEAR SITUATION HAD CHANGED. SPECIAL RESOURCES FOR ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLES LIVING IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAD BEEN PLEDGED BY ONE COUNTRY (SWEDEN) AND POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES HAD BEEN MENTIONED BY OTHERS. HOWEVER, UNDP STILL LACKED CONCRETE INFORMATION FORM

OAU ON NEEDS TO BE SATISFIED AND ESTIMATED COSTS OF
DESIRED ASSISTANCE. ADMINISTRATOR HOPED TO RECEIVE
SUCH INFORMATION IN TIME TO PREPARE FORMAL PAPER FOR
COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION AT 18TH SESSION (JUNE 1974).
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

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PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03 AGR-20 DRC-01

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8. UNDP ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO DATE HAD
BEEN LIMITED TO REFUGEES AND HAD TWO ASPECTS: (1)
ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES RECOMMENDED BY LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY OAU (PROJECT APPROVED BY COUNCIL
IN JANUARY, 1972 FOR EXECUTION BY UNESCO TO ASSIST INSTI-
TUTES IN GUINEA AND TANZANIA AND AN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING
CENTER IN ZAMBIA) AND (2) FINANCING OF MISSIONS TO HELP
PREPARE PROJECTS (A MISSION TO TANZANIA IN CONNECTION
WITH PERPARATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROJECT
AT MOZAMBIQUE INSTITUTE AT BAGAMOYO). ADMINISTRATOR
STATED HE WAS PREPATRED TO RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL OR TO
APPROVE OTHER PROJECTS DEALING WITH ASSISTANCE TO
REFUGEES, AND TWO PROJECTS (IN HEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL
TRAINING) ALREADY IN PREPARATION. UNDP HAD NOT GIVEN
DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. ONE SEVERE
CONSTRAINT, AMONG OTHERS, WAS LACK OF SUITABLE PROJECT
PROPOSALS. AT PRESENT STAGE, IT SEEMED UNDP COULD BE
PARTICULARLY HELPFUL BY FINANCING MISSIONS TO ASSIST
OUU AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN PREPARATION OF TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE AND OTHER PRE INVESTMENT PROJECTS
FOR SUBMISSION TO UNDP AND OTHER DONORS.

9. FINALLY, ADMINISTRATOR TURNED TO QUESTION OF UNDP

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ASSISTANCE TO POPULATIONS IN LIBERATED AREAS. HE REFERRED TO GA RES 2874 (XXVI) WHICH CALLED ON ORGANIZATIONS OF UN SYSTEM TO ASSIST "PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND THE TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE POPULATION IN THE LIBERATED AREAS OF THESE TERRITORIES" AND TO OTHER RESOLUTIONS REINFORCING THIS APPEAL. GUINEA BISSAU, AS A MEMBER OF FAO WAS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR UNDP ASSISTANCE. CONSULTATIONS HAD RECENTLY BEEN HELD AND UNDP HAD AGREED THAT FOR TIME BEING EXPLORATORY MISSIONS OF EXPERTS SHOULD PROCEED TO CONAKRY WHERE "NEW GOVERNMENT" IS BASED. "GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA BISSAU" WOULD ARRANGE THAT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO POPULATION OF LIBERATED AREAS IN APPROPRIATE MANNER. UNDP HAD NOT YET RECEIVED SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO POPULATION IN OTHER TERRITORIES MENTIONED IN GA RES, BUT IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO MAKE APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTION IF REQUESTS WERE FORTHCOMING.

10. COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPENDITURES, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PERSONNEL TRAINING, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), MEETINGS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN00120
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740174/abbrzalu.tel
Line Count: 243
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USUN 091; (B) USUN 088
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2002 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDP 17TH GOVERNING COUNCIL - ADMINISTRATOR'S OPENING REMARKS
TAGS: AORG, EAID, UNDP, OAU, IMF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005